Amnsements.

AMBERG THEATRE-S-Mein Leopold. ACADEMY-2-8-Country Circus. BROADWAY THEATRE-8-The Lien Tamer. BIJOU THEATRE-2-8:15-Incog CASINO-8:15-Uncle Celestin. COLUMBUS THEATRE-2-8:15-Mr. Potter of Texas. DALY'S THEATRE-2-8:15-Love in Tendem. EDEN MUSEE-Wax Tableaus. FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE-2-8-Blue Jeans

GARDEN THEATRE-8:15-Ten Thousand a Year.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE-2-8-City Directory.
HARRIGAN'S THEATRE-2-8-The Last of the Hogans HARLEM OPERA HOUSE-8:15-The Dancing Girl. HERRMANN'S THEATRE-8:15-Gloriana, HOYT'S MADISON SQUARE THEATRE-8:30-A Trip to Chinatown.
KOSTER & BIALS-2-8-Vandeville

LYCEUM THEATRE-8:15-Squire Rate.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE-8-Die Meistereinger. MUSIC HALL-S:15-Trip to the Moon. NEW PARK THEATRE-S:15-Boys and Girls. NIELO'S GARDEN-2-S-The Hustler. PROCTOR'S THEATRE-2-8:15-The Lost Paredisc. PALMER'S THEATRE-S:15-The Broken Scal. STAR THEATRE-S:15-For Money. STANDARD THEATRE-8:15-Jane ONV PASTOR'S THEATRE-8-Vandeville. THALIA THEATRE-8-The Merchant of Venice. UNION SQUARE THEATRE-8:15-Paul Jones.

Index to Aoperrisements.

Page.	Coi.	Page.	Co
musements11	5-6	Legal Notices 10	
Anajouncements12	-	darriages & Deaths. 7	5-
	02	Miscellaneous 9	
tue Sale Real Estate S	- 2	Miscellaneous 12	3-
lankers & Brokers.10		Musical Instruments 10	- 33
Board and Rooms 9	1	Malchi Instrumenters	1.
tusiness Chances 9	2	New Publications 8	187
tusiness Notices 6	1	Ocean Steamers 10	
dvidend Notices 10	- 5	Proposals 8	150
with Situations		Reas Fatale	3
Wanted 9	6.8	Real Estate 9	12.0
Excursions S	4	Railroads 8	W.
	24.0	Special Notices 7	
Inancial10	1000	Savings Banks 10	
inancial Elections 10	990	Steamboats10	
inancial Meetings. 10			2.
For Sain	- 2	Trachers	-
lein Wanted D	3	The Turf	4
lorses and Carriages. 9	1	Winter Resorts11	- 21
Hot-14 8	4	Work Wanted 9	0.
Instruction 8	44	PRODUCT TOWNS OF THE PARTY OF T	

Business Notices

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New-York Daily Tribune

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1892.

TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.-The Greek Cabinet was dismissed by the King. - The Pope addressed the College of Cardinals. = Chancellor von Caprivi was defeated in the Reichstag on naval estimates. = There was much fighting among starving poor in Vienna at a distribution of bread.

Congress: Both houses in session, === Senate Discussion of the Dubois-Claggett contest was continued. ==== House: The Indian Appropriation bill was passed; the District of Columbia Approprintion bill, the Free Wool bill and the Cotton Bagging and Cotton Tie bills were reported.

Domestic .- Returns from the charter election in the State show overwhelming Republican gains. = An attempt was made in the Assembly to recall from the Governor the Sullivan Elevated Railroad bill, but it falled. == Seven railroad employes were killed in a wreck in Milwaukee. asy made an argument ha fore legislative committees at Albany in support of the Central's Harlem Bridge bill, - The Indiana State Female Reformatory at Indianapolis was destroyed by fire; no lives were

City and Suburban.-District-Attorney Nicoll Grand Jury in a presentment based on the charges made by the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst. ____ The annual dinner of St. David's Society was given. Baseball League men began their convention. Stocks dull and irregular, without other feature The Vanderbilt shares advanced on the theory that control of Delaware and Hudson had been secured in that interest.

The Weather .- Forecast for to-day : Colder and cloudy, with a very little snow. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 3s degrees; lowest, 30; average, 33.

Advertisers, readers of The Tribune and others are cordially invited to use the new Uptown Office of The Tribune, No. 1.242 Broadway, for the consultation of directories, maps, guides, railroad time-tables, and other similar books of everyday reference. Those who are in charge will be glad to give civil answers to reasonable questions. The Tribune intends that its Uptown Office shall be a convenient Bureau of Information. Copies of current and past issues of The Tribune and Tribune Almanac can be purchased there.

The House has at last passed the Indian Appropriation bill. Of its action the only good thing to be said is that it is not so bad as it might have been. Especially regrettable is the wanton reduction in the amount set apart for Indian education. There is no excuse for this whatever except the insane desire of the Democratic economists to make a great display of frugality. So much was virtually admitted by Chairman Peel yesterday. It is a sorry display of miserable politics.

A bill in the interest of the elevated railroads was "sneaked" through the Legislature last year, and though its true character became known after its passage Governor Hill suffered it to become a law. It changed the method of procedure in suits for damages brought against these railroads by enabling the roads to take such cases out of the equity courts and submit the question of damages in each suit to a jury. Yesterday the Court of Appeals decided that this act, known as the McKnight law, is unconstitutional. This decision is not only a clear triumph of justice, but it is in fact a severe rebuke to the thods by which the legislation for the elevated roads was secured. The roads have resorted to like trickery in other cases in order to advance their interests. It is a satisfaction that they have been effectually checkmated where they were sure they had won the game.

voted for The Sullivan Elevated Railway bill last a misapprehension. Yesterday they had a chance and passed before Mr. Sullivan or any friend of bill knew what had been done. Sullivan moved to reconsider this action he had

titude of the Assembly toward the bill is thus again and most conclusively disclosed.

The town and charter elections held yesterday in various sections of the State repeat the story told by those that took place three weeks were made. Special interest, of course, attaches where the carnival of fraud reached its acme in

umphed gloriously. The excessively bad weather fore the Legislature whose passage would prove kept many from the polls, but not enough to a greater common benefit, and none which has prevent a political revolution. The Board of Supervisors whose proceedings provoked so much spectable source. indignation contained 18 Democrats and 8 Republicans. Of the Supervisors elected yesterday 16 are known to be Republicans and 5 Democrats, while definite reports have not been received from the remaining towns. This is rebuking fraud with righteous vengeance. From half a dozen or more other counties emphatic Republican gains are likewise reported, and from Elmira, Senator Hill's home, the good news comes that the Hill candidate for Mayor has been defeated, and that the Republican and Citizens' combination have secured control of the Common Council, and thus completed the overthrow of the Democratic ring. The spring elections have never possessed so much significance as now, and They will get out of them enormous political nover have the Republicans shown themselves patronage, amounting in value to many hundreds in better trim for a Presidential campaign.

THE TARIFF DECISIONS.

The United States Supreme Court has suppressed an immense volume of Democratic claprap by its decisions in relation to the Tariff and Worsted acts. For nearly two years the leaders and press of the Opposition have confidently asserted that both the procedure and the tariff sonally commanding his partisans to vote for a legislation of the last Republican Congress were | bill, at that moment on its passage, which would unconstitutional, and would be invalidated by the Supreme bench. Democratic Senators have nopoly of all the street-railroad franchises in repeatedly staked their reputation as constitutional lawyers upon the fulfilment of this prediction, and all the Free-Trade journals have published elaborate arguments to demonstrate the unconstitutionality of Speaker Reed's rulings and of the sugar-bounty provisions and the Reciprocity clause of the Tariff Act. All the questions at issue have been presented to the United States Supreme Court by the ablest lawyers whose services could be secured by the importers and their Democratic backers. The result is an unequivocal and final decision affirming the constitutionality of Speaker Reed's method of counting a quorum and also of the Tariff Act with the bounty and Reciprocity clauses.

Justice Brewer, in declaring the united opinion of the Supreme bench on the validity of the House rule providing for the counting of nonvoters present sluring the proceedings, analyzes it as purely a question of power. The Constitution has empowered the House to make its own rules for the regulation of legislative business: and consequently the validity of a measure eaacted in accordance with a rule authorizing the Speaker to count a quorum cannot be questioned. This is the opinion of the court reduced to the simplest terms. The Constitution provides that them is it proposed that this municipality shall a majority of each House shall constitute a quorum to do business. Rule XV of the Republican House prescribed a method of ascertaining the presence of a majority. The Speaker enforced a regulation which the House had a clear and unequivocal right to establish. Accordingly, any measure passed by a majority of votes when the quorum had been ascertained in this way was legally enacted. With three Democrats on the Supreme bench this decision has been reached unanimously. All the partisan declamation about helpless victim in the legislative shambles." the Republican Czar" and revolutionary methods of gagging the minority passes as the wind roaring in a broken chimney-pot.

The constitutionality of the Tariff Act is affirmed with equal unanimity except on a single point, the Reciprocity clause. The Chief-Jusis therefore unconstitutional. The majority of the Justices have not sustained this view, but have interpreted the amendment as constituting the President an agent of the lawmaking power. Congress prescribed the conditions under which he was to act, and authorized him to execute its received a coat of whitewash at the hands of the will whenever he should perceive that these conditions existed. This was the view taken by Senators Aldrich and Spooner when the clause was adopted, and their judgment has been fully sustained by the Supreme Court. The objections based upon the sugar bounties and the tabacco section omitted in the enrolment of the bill after its passage by the House are overruled by the full bench. The constitutionality of the Tariff Act has been affirmed with substantial unanimity, and Democratic panic-mongers who have been assuming for many months that it would be invalidated are left in a state of otter demoralization and collapse.

Republican legislators know how to make the Nation's laws. In the longest and busiest session of Congress which has ever been held since the adoption of the Constitution a great number of measures were enacted, but even in the turmoil of political excitement caused by a factious and obstructive opposition the legislative work was so carefully and thoroughly done that it passes successfully the rigid scrutiny of the court of last resort. The Supreme Court has established in an unanswerable way the capacity and intelligence of the last Republican Congress, and its unswerving respect for constitutional law.

AMENDING THE BALLOT LAW.

The Senate Committee to which the proposed amendments to the Ballot law were referred give a hearing to-day to those interested. It has been reported that the Democratic majority at Albany is determined to allow these amendments to die in committee; that it will leave the existing law severely alone. Every intelligent voter, whatever may be his politics, ought to hope that this report is untrue. For those who are familiar with the working of the law at the last two general elections are agreed-so far as we are aware there is no dissent from the propositionthat it cannot meet the best expectations, that it cannot promote the greatest good of the greatest number, unless a blanket ballot is provided for and the paster is abolished.

The chief amendments now pending at Albany improve the law in these two salient particulars. Why, then, should they not be promptly passed? There is no politics in them, not a particle. They are designed simply to render our elections honest; to minimize the opportunities for bribery and corruption at the polls to prevent the recurrence of such deplorable con tests as those which followed the elections of Tast November. The People's Municipal League, which drafted the amendments, is, as is well known, a public-spirited, but in no sense a partisan, organization. Its sole object, as its name Some of the seventy-four Assemblymen who indicates, is to promote the common welfare by rendering services in which the people as a week have been claiming that they did so under who'e are vitally interested. But the amendments have more than the League behind them. to set themselves right, but, strange to say, They have met with the hearty approval of failed to improve it. A motion to recall the bill leading men of both the great political parties from the Governor was made by Mr. Conkling and of representative Independents. They have also received the unreserved commendation of When the most influential labor organizations of the with the opportunity to respect the general de-

Conkling being unable to rally enough of this and nothing to gain by the perpetuation of any associates even to demand a roll-call. The atsystem, by which a premium is placed on fraud.

In the circumstances, the neglect of the Legislature to pass these amendments at the present session would be little less than an outrage. It would be generally construed by the voters as having its foundation in a flagrant disregard ago. Almost without exception Republican gains of their rights. But, as we have said, it is earnestly to be hoped that in this respect, if in to the action of the voters of Dutchess County, no other, the Democratic majority in the Senate and Assembly will respond to non-partisan December. The Republicans there have tri- public sentiment. There is no measure now be encountered so little opposition from any re-

NEW-YORK " HELD CP."

A high carnival of public robbery is going on at Albany. The like of it, we say again, has not been seen since the orgies of Tweed. The men who are mainly responsible for it thus far, aside from Hill, who stole the Legislature and gave the plunderers their chance, are Edward Murphy, jr., chairman of the Democratic State Committee; Richard Croker, Boss of Tammany Hall, and Hugh McLaughlin, Boss of the Brooklyn Democracy. How far Croker and McLaughlin expect to profit personally by the two colossal jobs now almost accomplished we do not know. of thousands of dollars. How far beyond this their interest may go is not apparent. Murphy, however, is personally and financially interested in the greatest of these jobs-the so-called "Huckleberry" Railread bill-and the spectacle he presented, the official head of his party, standing in the Speaker's room, of which, in defiance of all decency, he had taken possession, and perplace in his hands a complete and untaxed mothe Annexed District of New-York City-making him and his associates in one moment

tingent from Brooklyn worked together as the bridge across the East River, and for a railway to be built upon it and to be continued on an elevated track across New-York City through three miles of its streets to the Hudson River. Controller Myers, in imploring Governor Flower not to sign the two bills securing this job, properly characterizes them as measures in which "extraordinary privileges are granted, immensely valuable franchises conferred, unconscionable freedom from taxation provided for, and the right of the city authorities to regulate bridge construction and traffic practically ignored." And yet," says the Controller, "in neither of receive an income commensurate with the great value of these extraordinary grants." Indeed, for ten years the bridge company is absolutely free from taxation, or until it shall be earning 18 per cent annually upon its capital stock of 825,000,000, while the elevated railway company, behind which Mr. Jay Gould's sembre visage is readily discernible, gets three miles of the public streets for nothing at all. Mr. Myers may well cry out that New-York is "a

These are the most monstrous of the schemes of plunder undertaken by the men who were put into absolute power in this State by Hill's ments so absordly untrue. theft of the Senate. But they are not all, nor nearly all. Last week Mayor Grant gave his word of honor that there was no truth in the Monday night that a measure to that effect has already sneaked through the Assembly, couched in phraseology such as enables the Tammany Commission it creates to take any building in the city-the Cooper Union, the Bible House, Trinity Church-which, like Mr. Ottendorfer's, fronts a street, upon ten days' notice and without any legal proceedings whatever. Such idiotic disregard of the private rights of citizens is unheard of in the legislation of a modern civilized community. It places Mayor Grant in a peculiar position. That bill did not pass the sembly by accident. It is plainly aimed at Mr. Ottendorfer's building. Mr. Grant will see, in view of his declaration last week, that he has a pressing duty to his own honor not less than to Mr. Ottendorfer to perform by the prompt destruction of the measure. A bill to grab the Aqueduct Commission, a bill to create two new Surrogates, one to add a lot of stenographers and officers to the courts-these are more of the jobs by which shameless politicians hope to profit,

We have said that up to this point Murphy, Croker and McLaughlin are the men to be held primarily responsible for this betraval of the city's interests. It has reached the point now, however, where another hand is needed to give it effect, and the people will look with both concern and curiosity to see what Governor Flower is going to do. He perfectly understands the situation. He has been officially advised by the city's financial officer as to the nature of the logislation now before him and on its way. He is removed by wealth from all dependence or politics as a business. He can write himself an honest, strong and faithful public servant, or the contemptible creature of a syndicate of thieving political sharpers. No man ever had a better opportunity to vindicate the confidence of honest friends and to confuse malicious enemies Will Mr. Flower sign the grab bills or veto them?

THE WORLD'S FAIR APPROPRIATION. There is a chance yet for the Legislature to do the right thing in reference to the appropriation for the State's representation at the World's Fair. The Assembly has not yet acted on the bill setting aside \$300,000 for this purpose. which was passed by the Senate more than a menth ago, nothing having been done in the lower house except to adopt an amendment providing that the New-York building at the Fair shall be closed on Sunday-and this before it is certain that there is to be any building at all. It is understood that the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly will consider the matter to-day, and ex-Speaker Husted is credited with the intention of making an effort to secure an increase in the appropriation to \$500,000. In the opinion of a large number of keen and sagacious business men who have given special attention to the question, no sum less than \$500. 000 will be sufficient to enable the Empire State to make a showing at Chicago accordant with its wealth, dignity and leading position among he States of the Union. The matter is one of vital concern to every patriotic citizen.

If the Sunday amendment to the World's Fair bill stands, the measure must of necessity be returned to the Senate for final passage. Thus both branches of the Legislature are confronted State, the sagnetous members of which long ago | mand which has been made for an adequate apso difficulty whatever in carrying his point, Mr. discovered that a workingman had much to lose propriation. At the hearing given by the Sen-

ate Finance Committee in the latter part of Januacy only a single voice, that of Mr. Thacher, one of the National World's Fair Commissioners, was lifted up against an appropriation of half a million dollars. It is no exaggeration to say that the general sentiment of the State favors liberal action by the Legislature. It is possible that Mr. Husted's appeal may be predestined to fall on deaf Democratic ears. We trust that such is not the case, and that the amount of the appropriation may be determined according to the popular demand and the merits of the object in view. At all events, it is the duty of the Republican members of the Assembly to put themselves on the right side. Let there be no chance for mistake or misapprehension. If the Democrats insist on a mergre appropriation for this most important purpose, let them have the full responsibility. But it is to be hoped that their eyes will be opened before final action is taken. The best interests of the State assuredly demand an appropriation of \$500,000.

A SHODDY REPORT.

Mr. Springer has a genius for making assertions which bear no relation whatever to facts. Most men are restricted by some desire to retain the respect of well-informed readers, hearers or constituents. Mr. Springer rises superior to all such hampering embarrassments. Thus his report on the Free-Wool bill now pending in the House contains, among other extraordinary statements, the assertion that the wool manufacture in this country consumed in 1890 100,000,000 pounds of shoddy and only 92,000,000 pounds of scoured wool. It is possible that Mr. Springer has some constituents who will not know that this assertion is absurdly untrue. But if he cared in the least to be correct, very little inquiry would have guarded him against an error

The only calculation of the quantity of scoured demestic wool used in manufacture which has ever been recognized as having any value is that of Mr. Joseph P. Truitt, of Philadelphia, whose reports of wool production have been regarded as of the highest authority since the death of Mr. millionaires many times over-this spectacle was James Lynch, and are considered in the trade by all odds the most shameless, insolent and more trustworthy than those of the Agricultural outrageous that even the polluted chambers of Department. The Department makes no effort The second of these jobs has already skipped estimates have been based upon the actual weighthrough both houses and is now before Governor ing of fleeces from different States, and the Flower. This is the one that plays into the hands actual shrinkage as ascertained by manufactof McLaughlin. Murphy's country Democrats. urers in using wool from different States. His Creker's Tammany men and McLaughlin's con- calculation of the domestic product alone in 1890 was 139,628,220 pounds of scoured wool, over bosses bade. The second job provides for a 47,000,000 pounds more than Mr. Springer asserts to be the quantity consumed both of domestic and foreign wool. This statement includes, of course, the pulled wool, which prethat omitted his estimate would be far out of Post."

But there is to be added for the calendar year 1890 no less than 108,680,000 pounds of imported wool, on which the shrinkage was probably less than on the wool of domestic produc tion, for much of the imported wool comes wholly or partly scoured, even when quantities are fraudulently entered as only washed or unwashed. But if the shrinkage was as much as Mr. Truitt estimates for domestic wool, a little over one-half, the actual consumption of the foreign product would still be equivalent to more than 50,000,000 pounds scoured wool, making in all about 189,600,000 pounds consumed by the American manufacturer, against Mr. Springer's assertion that only 92,000,000 pounds was so consumed. The truth being only about 100 per cent more than Mr. Springer's assertion, he might fairly claim the credit of getting nearer the facts than usual for him, but one cannot help wondering how a man expects to get public confidence or support if he commits himself to state-

Nothing has been said as yet of the other part of Mr. Springer's assertion, that 100,000,000 pounds of sheddy were used in the manufacture more shoddy and less wool into the clothing worn by Americans. But he ought to know that a very large proportion of all the shoddy used in this country goes into horse blankets and similar coarse wrappings, into the coarsest and cheapest carpets, and into hats and felts of and the like. It is safe to say that less than half of the shoddy used in this country enters into the production of any kind of clothing. But there is no evidence known to the public that Mr. Springer is not as wildly in error in this assertion as in the other already quoted.

Mr. David A. Wells started out not long ago to persuade Americans that the woolien clothing they used was more largely adulterated with shoddy than the clothing produced in any other country. At once he was so overwhelmed with facts, conclusively proving that he had blundered almost incomprehensibly for a man presumably having access to statistics, that he shortly retreated from his position in a published letter, saving:

I have received a note from a wool manufacturer of experience, who says that, while I have probably no restimated the amount of substitutes for wool which the tariff restrictions on the imports of wool have pelled the magnifacturers of this country to use, I am out of the way in assigning to shoddy a place of it portance in such substitution that belongs to cotton. Possibly I have been mistaken in this respect. There is a good deal of evidence that shoddy is getting to be oo costly to be used as a wool adulterant

Mr. Springer has that peculiar quality of mind which is capable of absorbing all the blunders and untruths that favor his pet theories, but quite incapable of absorbing any of the corrections and recantations. That such a man makes a pitiable object of himself in his present position is not surprising.

THE TUSKEGEE NEGRO CONFERENCE,

More sensible words are rarely heard concerning the so-called "negro problem" than were uttered by negroes themselves at the Tuskegee. Ala., "colored conference," of which THE TRIB-UNE has given a long report. The members of this conference were not brought together for any partisan or sectarian purpose. They were not even attracted by the promise of some wonderful panacea, such as emigration to Liberia, which should in one operation cure all their social and political ills, and make the poor rich and the ignorant wise. They came, as the report says, in their "mule-wagons, buggies and steer-carts," four hundred and twenty-five farmers, with a few ministers, lawyers and mechanics; and in a few hours of temperate discussion they decided, in effect, that the United States is a good enough country for its colored citizens; that the attitude of the Southern whites is not wholly discouraging, that what the negro needs most is education, and that his own thrift and industry can do more to elevate him than any help he can receive from outside. These enlightened sentiments not only reflect

infinite credit on their professors. They show that at least one section of our negro population is ready to confess its own shortcomings, as well as to celebrate its gratitude to the Southern white people for whatever measure of friendliness they display. One of the most striking features of the present exhibit of Southern progress is the material advancement of the negroes, which race

the conference might really have issued from the mouths of so many white men. Over-production of cotton, to the exclusion of foodcreps, is a general grievance south of the Cumberland River, and farm mortgages are not absolutely unheard of as far north as the Great Lakes. But the demands for "better teachers and preachers," "living religion as well as talking religion," the emancipation of negro women from the cotton-field, and the observance of 'fewer Sundays in a week"-these strike at the root of abuses especially prevalent among the blacks, the mitigation of which is essential to true and continued prosperity. Said one speaker at the conference: "A minn is educated, not to keep from work, but so that he can work"; and the abundant material success of negroes who have lived up to this pithy apophthegm offers the strongest encouragement to others whose claim to political recognition is enforced by genuine desert.

It is painful to find the United States Supreme

Court venturing to differ with "The Evening Post" in so many particulars upon a single day Many learned essays have appeared in "The Post" to prove that the court could and should issue a writ of prohibition compelling a discontinuance of the proceedings against the British schooner Sayward for stealing our seal; but the court has been absurd enough to decide that such a writ cannot issue, and that it is not the province of the court to fix the limits of National dominion and jurisdiction. "The Post" has contended in many columns of adjectives and quotation marks that the reciprocity clause of the McKinley bill is unconstitutional, and that the entire bill is thereby invalidated; but the court, strangely dull to these positive assurances, has declared that the reciprocity clause is all right, and that the rest of the bill would not be affected if it were otherwise. "The Post" has prenounced Speaker Reed's rule enabling the Chair to count a quorum when, on a roll-call, members of the House are present but refuse to vote, illogical false in theory and unconstitutional. It has laughed weirdly at the very idea of proposing any other with extreme warmth that mere physical presence could answer the constitutional requirement of a quorum, and has violently asserted that the the Albany Legislature have seen in many a day! to ascertain the shrinkage of wool; Mr. Truitt's ability of the House to do business depended on the voluntary participation of a full majority. But the Supreme Court is so little impressed with these views that it dismisses them with a few brief sentences affirming Mr. Reed's position in every respect. It declares that the Constitution provides a cure for wilful absence, and that wilful silence cannot then be made to render the House as incompetent as it had been before the cure was invoked. It is distressing to think that we have placed upon our highest tribunal a set of men so blind and stupid as to make law for us sumably Mr. Springer ignores, though even with at variance with the opinions of "The Evening

> "Tom" Reed was not a Czar after all. He was attending to business. The Supreme Court says

Public opinion in this city will approve the favorable action of the Senate on the bill providing for an appropriation to enable the trustees of the Museum of Art to keep its doors open on Sunday. The vote in the Senate was 17 to 7, and there is no reason to doubt that the Assembly will take a similar view of the measure. The Sunday opening of the Museum has been a decided success, but it cannot be continued with the present resources. To abandon it would certainly be a step in the wrong direction.

Having come in like a lion suffering from an acute attack of the jimjams, it will become March to go out like the most modest and amiable of

"Tom" Reed was a "tyrant." "Tom" Reed decided there was a quorum present when a great number of persons sat in the face of him and were ready to say, by virtue of their not answering to the roll-call they were paid to answer to, that they were not there; that nothing could be done unless they responded. "Tom" Reed said "you tice and Justice Lamar have taken the ground imputation that he intended to get an act passed in 1890. He meant to be understood that this are here gentlemen to be counted," and the that the Aldrich amendment involves a delega- enabling him to take summary possession of the quantity was used in the manufacture of cloth- Supreme Court has decided without a dissenting Mme. de Barrios has taken passage for Europe by one tion of legislative power to the Executive, and "Staats-Zeitung" property in Tryon Row for the ling, for his whole argument was that duties voice that they were there. It is a considerable of the French steamships sailing in April. fact in history that the highest court decides in the light of common sense as of common justice that a man who is elected to do something cannot sit in his place and by a fiction prevent something's being done.

Mr. Cleveland is apparently booked to stump the colleges, while Senator Hill "makes dates" every description for belting, sheathing, lining with Southern Legislatures. In this characteristic way, their missionary work goes on.

> one of the historic blizzard of nearly four years ago. It came in March; it began with rain which turned into snow; there were northeasterly gales of great violence; and the weather, as a whole; was more disagreeable than any of the whole winter. Fortunately, however, the precipitation was not copious in or near the metropolis so that no such wholesale paralysis of travel and traffic ensued as followed the great storm of 1888. The cold was not so severe, either, by several degrees, although lower temperature is predicted for to-day. Nor, if the forecasts prove correct, will the storm linger in this vicinity many hours beyond the first twenty-four. Gales and the portheasterly winds are the salient features of this visitation; but the effect of These, it is to be feared, will make a serious record when all is told.

> Was Ames Commings a statesman, a real statesman, when he said in the last campaign that he and all his constituents had been outraged because "Tom" Reed counted him in a vote when he was constructively not there? Was he? Amos is a statesman, of course. But in this case? Is he? The Supreme Court has decided that "Tom" Reed, the wicked "Tom" Reed, was right. Still, Amos must be a statesman. Let us suspend judgment. But for the moment " Tom" Reed is a little ahead.

Was "Tom" Reed a tyrant? Say all ye who have been declaiming against him. What then is the

One of the lessons taught to Brooklyn by the big fire this week is the need of one or more water-towers to meet the new conditions brought about by the erection of lofty buildings. Another is the need of a fire insurance patrol. This is the second recent fire in Brooklyn where a large amount of property might have been saved by this means. It is amazing that the insurance companies in the fourth city of the United States have permitted this state of things to continue up to this time.

The gound hog failed in his duty this year, but March 1 has kept up its reputation.

The typhus outbreak is just serious enough to induce speculation on what it might have been if it had been worse.

The Tribune doesn't mean to be unjustly severe in its criticisms of Tammany leaders and their methods. If their bills are hurried through the Legislature after a meagre consideration, if any, by the committees, and by the choking off of discussion, it may seem harsh to characterize it as corrupt politics. Perhaps it's simply charity; the carrying out of the objects of the organization as interpreted by the present Sachems and other officers of the tribe. In the special act of 1805 authorizing the organization of "Tammany Society, or Columbian Order" it is declared that the object shall be "for the purpose of affording relief to indigent and distressed members of the association . . . and others who may be found proper subjects of their charity." Tammany prejudice has apparently not been suffered to Hall has a large number of "indigent and

check. The complaints of the negro farmers at distressed members" yet unprovided for, and there are hundreds of "others who may be found proper subjects of their charity." But their turn may soon come

PERSONAL.

Senator Sherman is quoted by George Alfred Townsend, in a letter to "The Chicago Inter-Ocean," as saying that his brother ought to have lived longer than he did. "After the General retired from service," says the Senator, "his desire to be among the people took him out to dinners and entertainments of all sorts, and probably was too much of a tax upon his years. I think he would have been living yet if he hadskept I think he would have been to Washington he stopped with me, and we gave him a key to come and go as he pleased, but we were in bed before he would come in." The surviving brother of this famous officer is about to build a new house in Washington, not for his own use, but as an investment.

Professor Whitcomb, pastor of a Universalist church in Washington, has resigned, and rumors are current that he means to enter the Episcopal priesthood. Already he has been baptized by Bishop Paret. He refuses to talk about the matter, beyond declaring that he greatly needs rest, and has no professional plans for the immediate future. His action has created a stir in theological circles at the capital.

James Robert McKee, the President's son-in-law, has now been in business in Boston for a year, and is said to like the city very much. Thus far he has lived at a hotel, but it is probable that before many months he will be settled permanently in Boston with Mrs. McKee.

John Jarrett, of Pittsburg, at present United States Consul in Birmingham, Eng., has sent in his resig-nation, and hopes to be free soon to return home. liis wife's health is not good; and besides he has the offer of his old place as secretary of the American Tin-Plate Association, with headquarters at Pitts-

Postmaster N. D. Sperry, of New-Haven, one of the most experienced and enterprising postal officials in New-England, led the ball of the Elm City letter carriers this week, with his wife. Mr. Sperry is heartily admired inside his office as well as out.

The birth of a son, a few days ago, to Madame Leon Daudet, brought great joy to her father-in-law, Alphonse Daudet, the celebrated French author. The Apphonse Daudet, the celebrated French author. In young woman, it will be remembered, was Mila Jeanne Hugo, the granddaughter and favorite of Vic-ter Hugo. The young heir is to bear the name of Charles, after Madame Daudet's father, the first hus land of the present Madame Lockroy.

WEDDINGS PAST AND TO COME.

The wedding of Miss Helen Hay Downing, daughter of A. C. Downing, to William Percival De Witt, took place yesterday afternoon at St. Thomas's Church, Fifth-ave, and Fifty-third-st. The Rev. Dr. John Wesley Brown, rector of the church, officiated. The bride was given away by her father. She was attended by her sister Miss Natalie Downing, Miss Edith Moser, Miss Miller and Miss McGonrke. The best man was J. H. De Witt, a brother of the bride, and the ushers were Edward Thompson, Frank Smith, Samuel McGourke, Dr. W. T. Van Vredenburgh, David H. Biddle and Arthur Filley. A reception for intimate friends and relatives followed at No. 800 Fifth-ave., the home of the bride's parents. Among the guests were Baron and Baroness de Thomsen, Judge and Mrs. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Homans, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Held, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Kountze, Miss M. Vanderpoel, Mrs. Bettner, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. F. De Reisst and Mr. and Mrs. John Milton Dillon.

Mr. and Mrs. De Witt started after the reception for a Southern trip. Miss Lillian E. Kissam, daughter of Jonas B. Kissam,

was married to Heary Bidwell Ely, at the Church of the Redeemer, Park-ave, and Eighty-second-st., yesterday at noon. The Rev. Louis Boothe, of Bridgeport, officiated. Dr. Leonard W. Ely, a brother of the bride groom, was best man. The ushers were Lawrence Reamer, J. W. Cushman, Van Wyck Lee, Gerald Lowe, T. D. Rambaut and R. M. Elsworth. The bride entered the church with her father. Her bridesmaids were Miss Agnes Ely and Miss Grace Kissam. The service was choral. A reception followed at the Barrets House, only a small party being present. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Kissam, Mr. and Mrs. Seorge W. Ely, Mr. and Mrs. Abner Bartlett, Mrs. Wheeler, the Misses Lockwood, A. F. Holly, Mr. and Mrs. William Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Horner, A. F. Holly, Mr. and Mrs. Grenville Kissam and the members of the bridal party. Mr. and Mrs. Ely will make their home in Plainfield, N. J., where a new house awaits them, the gift of the bride's parents.

Though the engagement of Mme. de Barrios to Seno de Roda has not been formally announced, there seems to be no doubt that the marriage will take place soon. The arrival of Senor de Roda was entirely unexpected, and so much so that when he was ushered into the presence of Mme, de Barrios she fainted away. He had been seriously ill with the grip in Paris, and was accompanied to this country intimate friend, Senor de Bethencourt and a physician.

E. J. seiders, to Dr. A. W. Billing will take place in Trinity Church, Broadway, opposite Wall-st., on Thursday evening, March 10. A reception will follow at No. 183 West Eighty-seventh-st.

The wedding of Miss Cara Crooke, sister of Robert

Livingston Crooke, to James A. MacDonald, of Flushing, L. I., was celebrated quietly at the home of the bride's brother, No. 13 East Thirty-fourth-st., yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Rev. Dr. Sniveley, of Philbalelphia officiated. There was no best man. The maid of honor was Miss Hannah K. Crooke, a niece of the bride. The ushers were Donald Bostow and Philip Bergen. Finard served a wedding breakfast, at which were present only the relatives of the pair.

Washington, March I (Special) .- A Shrove Tuesday wedding of much interest in official circles was cele weeding of the late Representative Townshend, daughter of the late Representative Townshend, daughter of the late Representative Townshend, of Hinols, and Joseph W. Weeks, Jr. of Palmer, Mass. It was a house weeding at the Elsmere. The ushers were A. L. Hopfdood and L. H. Pritten, of New York, Orville Townshend, the bride's brother, was best man. The bridesmads were Miss Bessle Sinder, Miss Brickner and Miss Belle Gleason. They wore white slik gowns and carried pink roses. The bride's cousin, General Wilson, gave her away. Her wedding gown, of white corded slik, was trimmed with orange blossoms on the high bodice. Mrs. Townshend, who for the first time since her husband's death laid off black, word a gown of sliver gray faille and pearl ornaments. Among the guests were Senator, Mrs. and Miss Kenna, senator and Mrs. Sanders, Professor, Mrs. and Miss Hunter, ex-secretary Houtwell, Senator and Mrs. Perkins, Representative and Mrs. Burrows, ex-Representative and Mrs. Neutleton, Senator and Mrs. Call, Representative and Mrs. Rickner, Senator and Mrs. Pulmer, Representative and Mrs. Townsend, of Colorado; Senator and Mrs. Charles Gibson. braied this evening by the Rev. Father Kervick, of St.

"The Merchant of Venice" was played at the Thaffa Theatre last night, with Carl Reiser in the part of Shylock. Herr Reiser is an actor of skill and finish, but lacking in flor Resar is an actor of skii an inter, out leading and doubth. He gives a capital presentation of the person and manner of Shylock, without realizing the fundamental principles of his character. His Jew is nervously and vehemently spiteful, as if his revenge were to be the punishment of a recent injury rather than the expression of was given with the care and conscientiousness which dis-tinguish the management of this theatre. The minor parts were competently and sometimes excellently played. Herr tions was an especially joily and sellinguish. Gans was an especially joily and rollicking Launcelot Gobbo, and Fraeulein Gutfeld as Jossica would have given one of the pleasantest parts of the performence if she had known the lines perfectly. The play will be repeated to-night and to-merrow night.

THE REFORM CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS.

The annual election of officers of the Reform Club was eventhest. The election resulted as follows: Presideal, E. Ellery Anderson; vice-presidents, Oswald Ottendorfor, harles S. Fairchild, Carl Schurz, Ausen Phelps Stokes. Everett P. Wheeler, George Tucker Harrison, Ge Foster Peabody, Horace E. Deming and Henry B. Stapler; treasurer, Louis Windmuller; secretary, Heary De Forest Baldwin.

MR. REED KEEPS CHEERFUL.

From The Baltimore American.

And what a screne smile must play over the rotund features of the ex-speaker as he reads the approval of his "methods" by the highest judicial tribunal in the land! This is one of the cases where he who laughs last laughs best.

HE MAY BE HEARD FROM YET.

From The Chicago News,

It is generally believed that Senator Gorman is not really asleep all this time, but is only playing 'possum.

MUCH THE SIMPLER SOLUTION.

From The Boston News. Emperor William is advised by some of his country-men to get out of Germany if he doesn't like the way things are going. That's business.

TOO EXTENSIVE PRELIMINARIES. From The Philadelphia Times.

Congress taking over two months to begin work re-calls the Dutchman who ran two miles in order to get a good start for jumping a six-foot ditch.